

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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LB 613, 696

know, it is regrettable we can't get this moved. It needs to be done.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time has expired on the bill. We'll next move to LB 696. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 696, a bill introduced by Senator Bruning. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 20 of last year, referred to the Government Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bruning, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this bill was brought to me by Mike Floyd, the President of the Nebraska Federation of the Blind. Essentially, what it does is requires a technology access clause in state agency contracts. That clause provides that any technology purchased by the state has to be capable of allowing blind folks to work...work with the technology. So, for example, a computer terminal would have to have the software available so that a blind person could use that terminal. It could have a voice...a voice activated addition. The clause is to be developed by the Division of Rehabilitative Services for the Visually Impaired, the Chief Information Officer and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The committee amendment, and the Chair of the Government Committee can talk about that as well, but it just requires that the technology be used for input and output technology, not for infrastructure. So the state is not going to need to buy all new computers if this bill is adopted. The state is simply going to need to be aware that they may have blind people working in these agencies and that the technology has to allow them to work...work with it as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The Chair of the Government Committee,